

Dear Connecticut State Legislators:

My State Senator John Kissel informed me that on Monday, April 20th, there will be a public hearing on a bill that would divert state tax revenue to help pay for the Hartford baseball stadium to house the newly formed Hartford Yard Goats. I'd like to share my thoughts in opposition of this legislation.

My opposition is very simple. Connecticut residents were promised that no state taxpayer dollars would be spent on this project. It's time for politicians in Connecticut to keep their promises. I feel it is your **duty** to not even consider such a bill based on the promise made to the residents of Connecticut. If this proposal to divert state tax revenues was known prior to approving the stadium, it probably would not have passed. I and many other Connecticut residents enjoyed watching minor league baseball in New Britain.

I've written to you before on other proposed bills and it is clear to me that many of you simply don't get it. I'm sure you listen to the radio and watch TV and read the newspapers. People and companies are moving out of Connecticut for many reasons with our tax rates being one of the major ones. Your time should be spent on reviewing where our tax dollars are currently being spent and proposing cuts to programs that this state can no longer sustain. Admittedly, it's a tough subject, but you should look at state employees salaries, benefits, and retirement plans and do something about them. I'm simply amazed at how state employees' benefits compare to those of us who work in the private sector. Many people I know would enjoy the opportunity to attend a public hearing on proposed cuts to this major budget item to create some tax relief for Connecticut taxpayers. It's time for state employees to enter the real world and experience the benefit reductions imposed by major private sector companies who conduct business in Connecticut and across the USA.

Like any private sector company, if a company wishes to locate in Hartford, CT, they should be willing to pay to build their own building. The Hartford Yard Goats are no different. The state of Connecticut should not have to divert state tax revenue to fund the building of their stadium. I repeat, my opposition is very simple. I urge you to NOT DIVERT STATE TAX REVENUE TO HELP PAY FOR THE HARTFORD STADIUM. Please keep your promise and be proud that you are doing so!

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Marschall
Somers, CT